



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

---

Contact: Linda White  
California Postsecondary Education Commission  
1303 J Street, Suite 500  
Sacramento, California 95814-2938  
(916) 322-7984  
lwhite@cpec.ca.gov

### **Commission Awards \$998,946 Grant to California State University, Chico and the Tehama County Office of Education to Improve Teaching and Learning**

January 2004 --- California State University, Chico will receive a three-year grant of \$998,946 in federal monies that have been earmarked for improving the quality of teaching. In partnership with the Tehama County Office of Education, the project goal is to create professional development opportunities for teachers in rural areas. The *Northeastern California Teacher Education Collaborative* is unique in a number of ways. Not only does it cover more than 40,000 square miles of vastly different demographics, it encompasses twelve counties, is expected to support over 4,000 teachers, administrators and other staff and will benefit an area of the state with 97% of its schools qualifying as high poverty.

This partnership also includes a number of other educational entities that will collaborate to implement the grant. The project goals include beginning teacher support in specific content mastery, development of a Web portal to serve as an online teacher professional development community, and dissemination of project resources and findings beyond the region.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission has been administering federal funds to improve teacher professional development since 1984. This year the Commission has made awards totaling over \$10 million in the *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program*.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). Regarding this program, you may contact Terence Janicki, California State University, Chico, at 530-898-4800; or Cathy Szychulda, Tehama County Office of Education, at 530-528-7309.